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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Whitfield

Docket No.: ADEX0001

5 **Serial No.:** 09/472,100

Art Unit: 3621

Filed: 20 December 1999

Examiner: Huseman, M.

10 **Title:** Secure System for the Issuance, Acquisition, and Redemption of
Certificates in a Transaction Network

February 6, 2003

15 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

20 Sir:

This is in response to the Advisory Action which was mailed to Applicant on 28 January 2003, for the above-identified patent application. Applicant considers this document to be filed in a timely manner.

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Please amend the Application as follows:

In the Claims

30 Please replace Claims 1, 7, 8,10, 12, 16, 21-23, 25 and 27, as amended below, with replacement Claims 1, 7, 8,10, 12, 16, 21-23, 25 and 27, as follows:

1. A certificate system on a network, comprising:

CI 35 a certificate authority connected to said network, said certificate authority adapted to allow the definition of a virtual certificate comprising a redemption denomination defined by an issuer user, and a first public key identifier defined by said certificate authority;